



NO. 475 SEPT. 35¢
30410

SUPERMAN'S

ACTION COMICS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THAT'S *NOT* CLARK KENT
RUSHING INTO THIS
PHONE BOOTH...

TELEPHONE

Edy
77
M.

BUT WHAT COMES OUT
REALLY STUNS
SUPERMAN!

YOU COULD BE IN THE SUPERMAN MOVIE

--DETAILS INSIDE--



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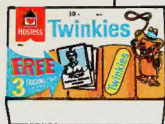
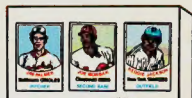
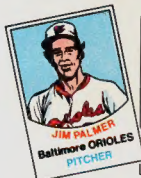
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PEOPLE OF EARTH--

--I HAVE A CONFESSION
TO MAKE!

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET **KRYPTON**,
KAL-EL GAINED SUPER-POWERS FROM EARTH'S LIGHTER GRAVITY
AND YELLOW SUN, POSING AS MILD-MANNERED TV NEWSMAN
CLARK KENT, HE BATTLES EVIL AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by
**JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER**

"I AM RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE TERRIBLE
MENACE WHICH
SUPERMAN IS RISKING
HIS LIFE TO STOP!"

BUT YOU MUST
BELIEVE ME-- I AM
NOT A VILLAIN!
WHAT I REALLY
AM IS--

"The SUPER-HERO WHO REFUSED TO HANG UP HIS BOOTS!"

STORY:
CARY BATES

ART:
KURT SCHAFFENBERGER & FRANCISCO CHIARAMONTE

COLOR: **JERRY SERPE**
LETTERING: **BEN COA**

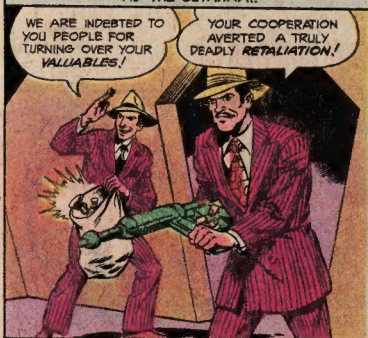
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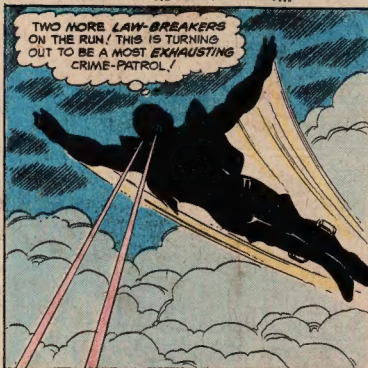
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A CRIME HAS JUST BEEN COMMITTED-- AND YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS WHAT IS TRADITIONALLY KNOWN AS "THE GETAWAY"...

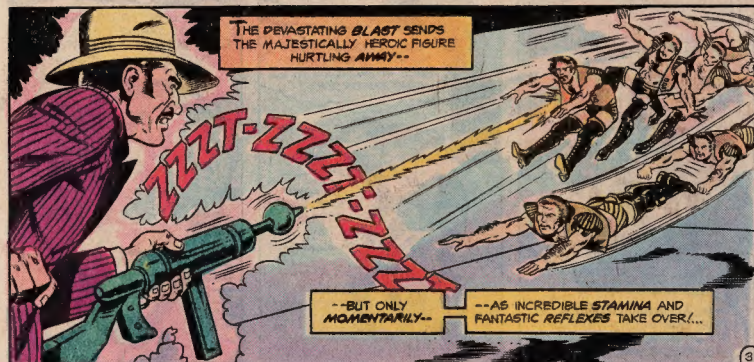
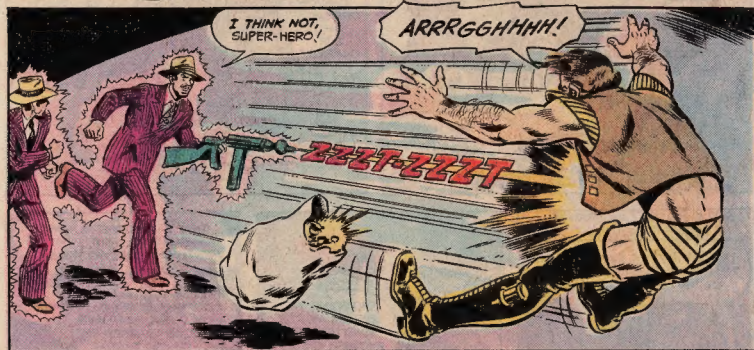


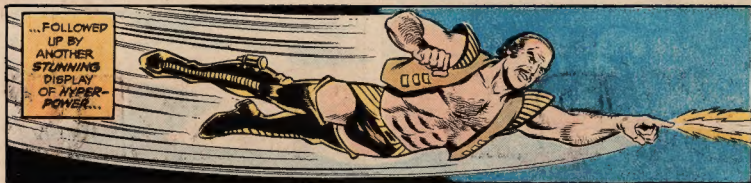
AND WITH THE APPEARANCE OF THIS WELL-MUSCLED FIGURE FLYING OVERHEAD, THOSE ODDS HAVE JUST BEEN REDUCED TO ABSOLUTE ZERO!...



BUT YOU'LL NOTICE THERE IS NOTHING TRADITIONAL ABOUT THE APPEARANCE OF THEIR VICTIMS...







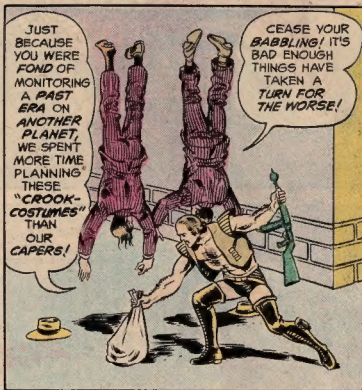
...FOLLOWED UP BY ANOTHER STUNNING DISPLAY OF HYPER-POWER...



THAT Z-CHARGE COULD HAVE STOPPED AN ARMY!

LOOK AT VARTOX--HE'S NOT EVEN OUT OF BREATH!

YOU AND YOUR EARTH-VIEWING--BAAH!



JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE FOND OF MONITORING A PAST ERA ON ANOTHER PLANET, WE SPENT MORE TIME PLANNING THESE "CROOK-COSTUMES" THAN OUR CAPERS!

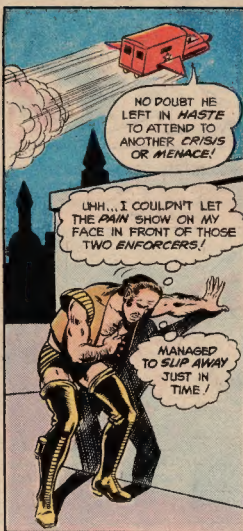
CEASE YOUR BABBLING! IT'S BAD ENOUGH THINGS HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE!



AND WHEN THE LAW ARRIVES, MOMENTS LATER...

VARTOX DID NOT EVEN STAY ON THE SCENE LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO THANK HIM!

TYPICAL BEHAVIOR FOR A TRUE CHAMPION! WHAT A SORRY WORLD THIS WOULD BE WITHOUT VARTOX!



NO DOUBT HE LEFT IN HASTE TO ATTEND TO ANOTHER CRISIS OR MENACE!

UHH...I COULDN'T LET THE PAIN SHOW ON MY FACE IN FRONT OF THOSE TWO ENFORCERS!

MANAGED TO SLIP AWAY JUST IN TIME!



THAT Z-CHARGE ALMOST FINISHED ME... BUT, I HAD TO PRETEND IT WAS NOTHING!

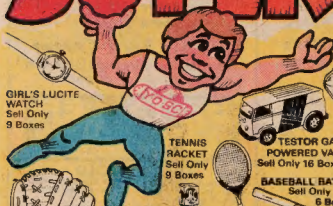
PEOPLE WOULD LOSE CONFIDENCE IN ME... CRIME WOULD RUN RAMPANT... IF ANYONE LEARNED THE TRUTH THAT --

--THE SPECTER OF AGE IS FINALLY TAKING ITS TOLL ON MY HYPER-POWERS!

CONTINUED ON 380 PAGE FOLLOWING

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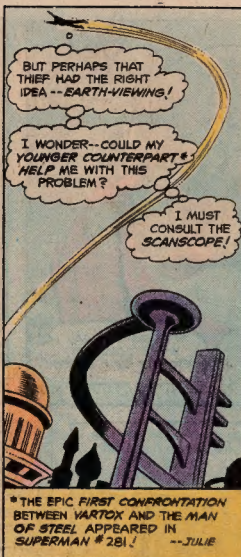
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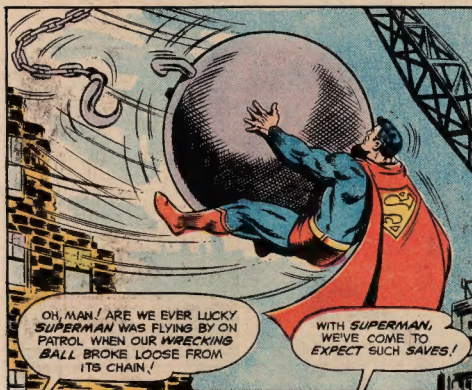
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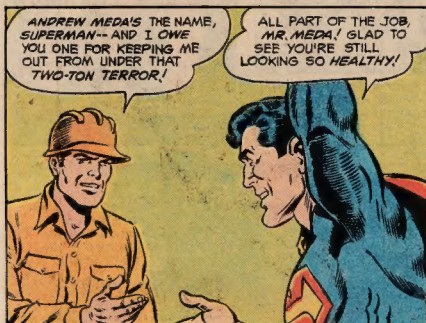
OH, MAN! ARE WE EVER LUCKY SUPERMAN WAS FLYING BY ON PATROL WHEN OUR WRECKING BALL BROKE LOOSE FROM ITS CHAIN!

WITH SUPERMAN, WE'VE COME TO EXPECT SUCH SAVES!



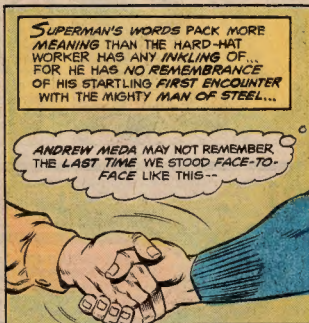
THAT BALL HAD MY NUMBER ON IT-- I WAS STANDING DEAD CENTER IN ITS PATH!

ISN'T THE FIRST CLOSE CALL YOU'VE HAD ON A JOB, MEDA! ALWAYS SAID YOU HAD A LUCKY STREAK!



ANDREW MEDA'S THE NAME, SUPERMAN-- AND I OWE YOU ONE FOR KEEPING ME OUT FROM UNDER THAT TWO-TON TERROR!

ALL PART OF THE JOB, MR. MEDA! GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE STILL LOOKING SO HEALTHY!



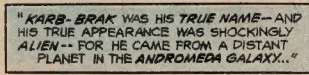
SUPERMAN'S WORDS PACK MORE MEANING THAN THE HARD-HAT WORKER HAS ANY INKLING OF... FOR HE HAS NO REMEMBRANCE OF HIS STARTLING FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE MIGHTY MAN OF STEEL...

ANDREW MEDA MAY NOT REMEMBER THE LAST TIME WE STOOD FACE-TO-FACE LIKE THIS--



"--BUT IT IS A SIGHT I MYSELF WILL NEVER FORGET!"

YOU DID THIS TO ME, SUPERMAN-- AND FOR THAT, YOU MUST DIE!

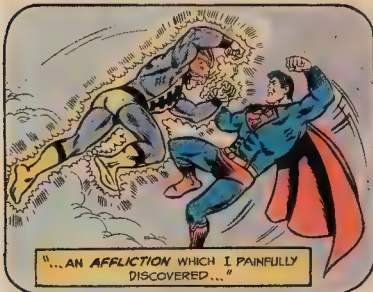


"KARB-BRAK WAS HIS TRUE NAME-- AND HIS TRUE APPEARANCE WAS SHOCKINGLY ALIEN-- FOR HE CAME FROM A DISTANT PLANET IN THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY..."



"...AN UNUSUAL WORLD WHERE EVERYONE POSSESSED WHAT EARTHMEN WOULD REGARD AS SUPER-POWERS!"

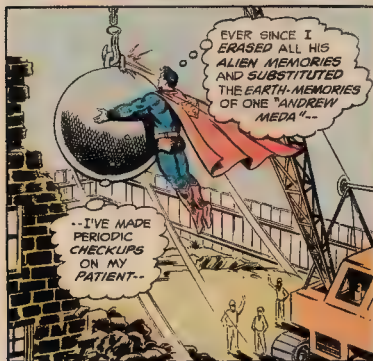
"BUT KARB-BRAK WAS EVEN MORE UNUSUAL -- BECAUSE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY ALLERGY WHICH PLUNGED HIM INTO A FEVERISH RAGE WHENEVER HE CAME IN CONTACT WITH A SUPER-POWERED BEING..."



"...AND EVENTUALLY FOUND A CURE FOR--DRAWING ON KARB-BRAK'S OWN POWERS TO ENDOW HIM WITH A HUMAN APPEARANCE."



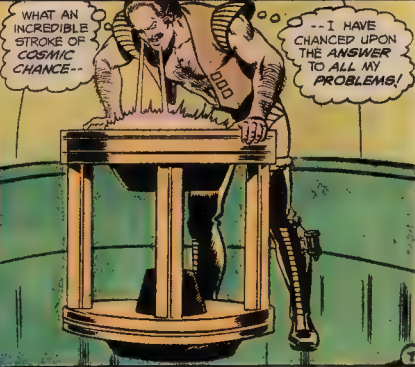
"THUS A POTENTIALLY DEADLY MENACE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO PEACEABLE ANDREW MEDA, CONSTRUCTION WORKER."



AND ALTHOUGH THE METROPOLIS MARVEL HAS FLOWN AWAY FROM THE SCENE--THE FARAWAY OBSERVER WHO WAS TRACKING HIM HAS FOUND A SUBJECT OF EVEN GREATER INTEREST...



WHAT AN INCREDIBLE STROKE OF COSMIC CHANCE--



6 O'CLOCK THAT EVENING-- A MILLION **METROPOLIS** VIEWERS TUNE IN TO **WGBS** TO SEE A FAMILIAR FACE DELIVERING THE NIGHTLY NEWS...

... HAPPENING THIS VERY MOMENT AT 57TH STREET AND BROADWAY!

NOW, HERE WITH THE **SPORTS**, THE "**SLINGER**" HIMSELF...

... **STEVE LOMBARD!**

THANKS, **CLARK--** FOR ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR SCINTILLATING **INTROS!**

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE **METROPOLIS METEORS** ARE GOING TO HAVE A TOUGH SEASON AHEAD OF THEM...

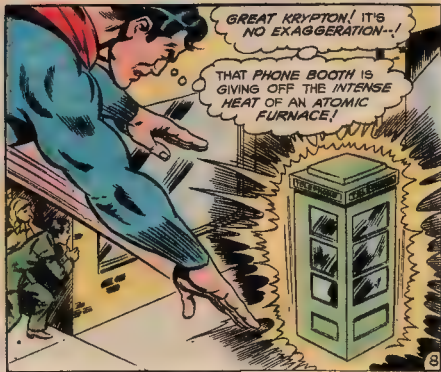
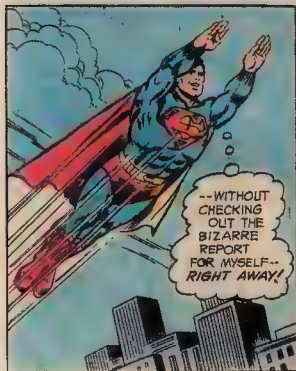
PST--CLARK--WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? LOMBARD'S SPOT ONLY FILLS TWO MINUTES, TEN SECONDS!

MY THROAT'S DRYING UP, **JOSH!** GOING TO TAKE A GARGLE!

BE BACK IN A JIFF!

AND HOW LONG A TIME IS A "**JIFF**"? IN THIS INSTANCE, IT BEGINS WITH A **SPLIT-SECOND CHANGE OF GARB** AND AN EVEN **SWIFTER EXIT** FROM THE **GALAXY BUILDING...**

WHEN I READ THAT LAST NEWS-BULLETIN, I KNEW I COULDN'T SIT BEHIND THE DESK--



"I know why Ken likes to shoot Daisy B-B guns with me. He's a better shot than I am! And I like shooting with him simply because it gives us an opportunity to spend some time together.

Sometimes we set up targets down in the basement. Or else we'll get out in the backyard by ourselves plinking away, and talking. I've found it's a terrific way for a father and son to get to know each other better.

At the same time, I think it's helping Ken develop a sense of responsibility, as well as confidence in himself through his own achievements. And that's important at any age."

John Unitas

Former Baltimore Colts
Quarterback Johnny Unitas
and son Ken.

The sport a boy grows up with...

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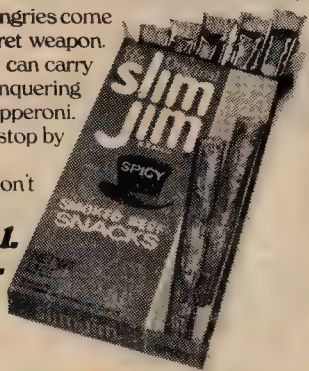
If you want to be ready, next time the Hungries come around, try taking along your pocket-size secret weapon.

Slim Jim.® The mighty meat snack you can carry anywhere, and eat anytime. In six Hungries-conquering flavors- mild, spicy, pizza, bacon, salami, and pepperoni.

So pick up Slim Jim the next time you stop by the grocery store.

If you don't, and the Hungries get you, don't say we didn't warn you.

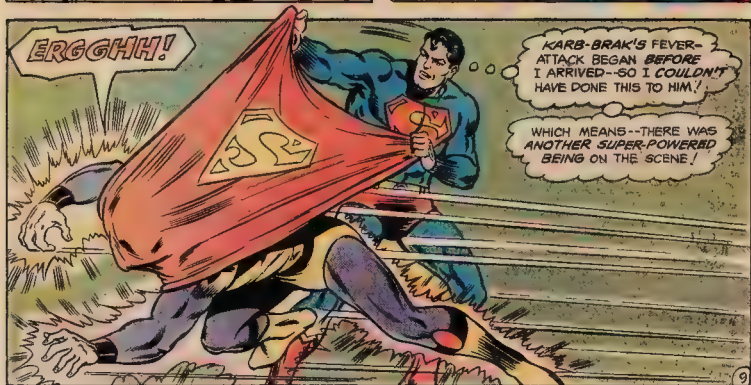
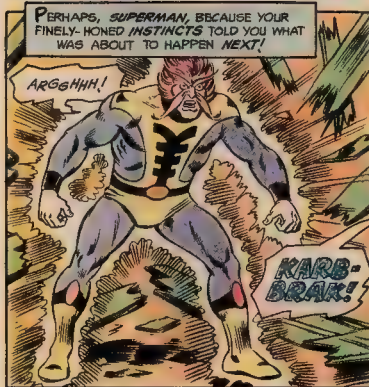
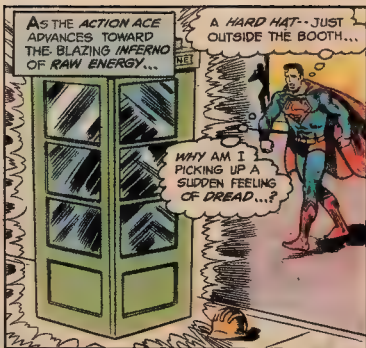
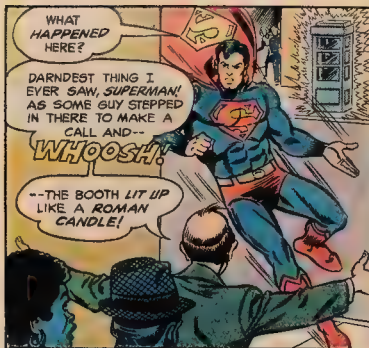
**A little less than a meal.
A little more than a snack.**

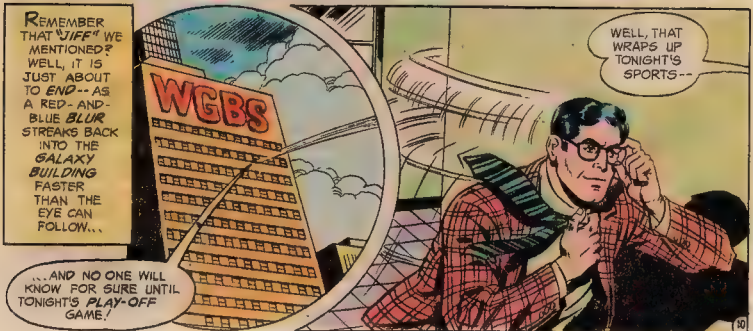
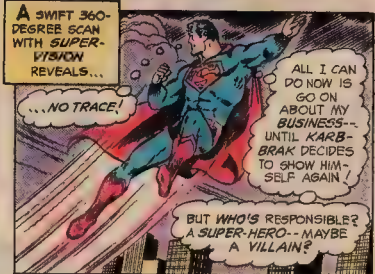
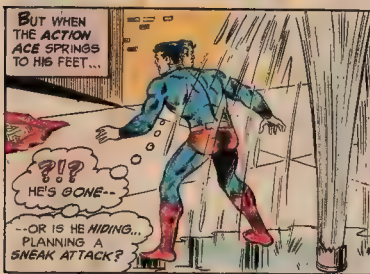
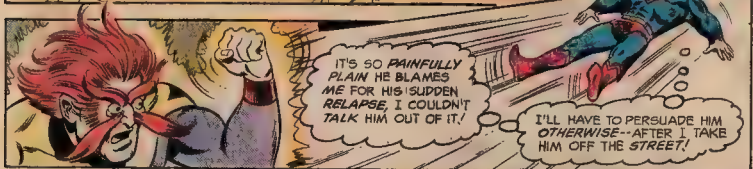
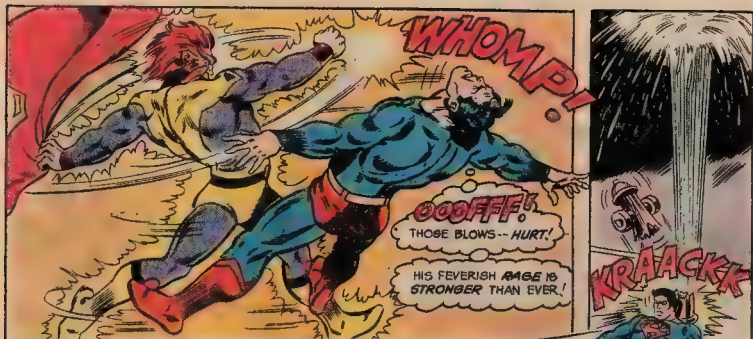


*Slim Jim is a registered trademark for meat snacks

FUN FACTORY, 117 UNION ST., DEPT D-136, PALISADES PARK, NEW JERSEY 07650

SWITCH-BLADE COMB Sawtooth blades when you pull out the 5" size other comb. It looks like a switchblade comb but gives the blades a S-A-A-B and causes a long neural comb! #511 \$2.00	POCKET SPY SCOPE Pen sized 8 power telescope scope objects blacks away. Great for watching sports, girls, counter spying. Power lens optically ground to view over detail #425 \$1.75	COLOR SMOKE CLOUDS Just light on and thick clouds of color rise to the ceiling. Bleach them off the room! Used for magic smoke, TV signaling etc. #222 2for\$1.00	10-INSTRUMENTS-IN-ONE This amazing (3 1/4" when folded) in vent is: 1 reading lens, 2 microscope, 3 telescope, 4 binoculars, 5 compass, 6 solar clock, 7 mirror, 8 magnifying mirror, 9 lighter, 10 transmitter & record #030 \$1.00	FLESH EATING PLANTS The most unusual plant in the world! Eats flys, bugs, insects even meat. Instructions & special soil included. #202 \$1.00	JOY BUZZER Wind it up. Wear it on your finger like a ring & give your friends the S-H-O-O-K of their life! Touch somebody and watch them JUMP #450 \$1.00																				
EXPLODING PEN Everyone's curiosity your victim will get a bang out of this cool! Looks like a real pen. Watch the surprise when they start to write and BAM! Can be used over and over again. Harmless. #584 \$1.50	FREE HYPNO-COIN With 25 sessions of Hypnotism. The magic power of hypnotism can be your Hypnotist at a glance! Make people obey your commands, strengthen your memory & much more! Order 25 session course & receive HYPNO-COIN free #250 \$1.00	MINI SPY CAMERA Now take secret or regular pictures with a camera that is easily concealed in the palm of your hand. Precision ground lens. Takes clear close up or distant pictures. Solid all metal construction. Ten pictures per roll. #007 Camera \$1.75 #077 3 rolls film \$1.00	PRANKS & JOCKS Here the real laugh with these great pranks and jokes #312 Sneezing powder \$1.00 #653 Black soap .75 #048 Disappearing mix .75 #124 Red hot pepper gum 1.50	"SPUD" GUN New! Fast action gun that shoots potato pellets as far as 50 feet! More than 500 shots from a single potato! Absolutely harmless. #900 \$1.50	X-RAY SPECS An amazing illusion! Apparently see thru bones, thru skin, thru clothes, etc. Trill and Embarrass your friends #155 \$1.00																				
MONEY BLOWER Insert a blank piece of paper into the machine. Turn the knob. PRESTO! from the other side COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILLY! Is worth a dollar bill & also it changes to a \$5.00 or \$10.00. Loads of money & fun. #780 \$1.75	SEA VENTRILOQUIST Appear to throw voices into desks, under beds, out of pots. Small gadget easily hidden in mouth. Easy instructions. #512 \$1.00	BANG! Fires real blanks! Extra loud explosion! 2" long. Barrel opens to load. Hammer cocks & fires when trigger is pulled. Ramrod & ammo included! #306 \$1.00 #305 Extra Ammo \$1.50	MINI SKULL FLASHLIGHT Lights at touch of SECRET button. FREE key chain. Battery included #652 \$1.00	FUN FACTORY, DEPT D-136 117 UNION ST. PALISADES PARK, N.J. 07650 YOUR SATISFACTION IS GUARANTEED IF NOT 100% SATISFIED, I MAY RETURN ANY PART OF MY PURCHASE FOR FULL REFUND OF PURCHASE PRICE <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>No</th> <th>How Many</th> <th>Price Each</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> All orders shipped same day! Post & hdlg 25c Use other paper if necessary Catalog 25c TOTAL ENCLOSED NAME _____ (print) ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____		Item	No	How Many	Price Each	Total															
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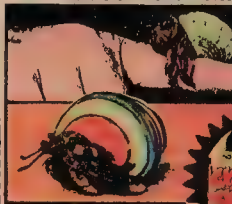




AMAZING
AIR-BREATHING

Crazy Crabs™

ACTUAL "CRAZY CRAB" PHOTOS



Millions Astounded
by Friendly Land Crab!

A friendly AIR-BREATHING "Crazy Crab" is the most amazing pet you'll ever own! As gentle as a pussycat, it lives on LAND instead of water, DOES NOT BITE unless mishandled, and quickly gets to know its owner! Absolutely clean and odorless, it actually wears "clothing"—an empty snailshell that it changes like a costume, and is one of the LONGEST-LIVED pets on earth!

A Crab of AMAZING INTELLIGENCE!

A truly INTELLIGENT pet, give it a name such as L'il Caesar, Leapin' Linda, Happy Henry, Sandy Claws, Tipptoes, Sexy Snooky, Merry Mimi, Tiny Tim, etc., and see how well it responds when you call it! (It loves to be touched and petted, and enjoys running from hand to hand, swinging from your fingers or just cuddling on your shoulder like an adorable tame parrot. But that's just the START of the FUN that awaits you! You get instructions for playing FOUR "Crazy Crab" Races and Games including a BAFFLING new magic trick called "The Haunted Coffee Cup", that uses a "Crazy Crab" as your "assistant"!

An Attention-Getter! Without Equal!

Because it is so quiet and well-behaved, your "Crazy Crab" is always welcome

anywhere you go! To "break the ice" and make new friends, take your "Crazy Crab" with you and be the center of attention! And to create some REAL EXCITEMENT, you can even "customize" it! Because it is a hermit crab, its shell is not its own and can be painted, covered with dazzling rhinestone jewels or decorated any other way without harm! It looks SO SPECTACULAR, you can proudly "show it off", give as a "personalized" gift or, if you wish, even SELL for profit! Best of all, "Crazy Crabs" have a life-span of up to 70 YEARS! Give it water, any kind of food (even cookies), and with good care you can

No Water
Or Fishbowl
Needed!
They Live
On LAND!

FREE
CARRYING
CRATE

THE NEW LIVE
PET SENSATION
THAT'S SWEEPING
AMERICA

keep one alive for the rest of your life!

Guaranteed LIVE Delivery!

To order your "Crazy Crab", mail only \$2.98 plus 52¢ postage, each. We will include a fascinating handbook of instructions for the care, feeding, raising, and history of "Crazy Crabs" AND complete rules for all "Crazy Crab" games, tricks and stunts. And, if you order NOW, you will also get FREE OF CHARGE, a designer-decorated "Crazy Crab" Carrying Crate to conveniently tote your pet wherever you go! Live delivery guaranteed!

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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290 Fifth Avenue • New York, N.Y. 10013

I can hardly believe it, but I'm about to get the kind of pet I've always wanted! Please ship my "Crazy Crab(s)" including the "Crazy Crab" Handbook and a FREE "Crazy Crab Carrying Crate" with each crab. I must be completely satisfied with everything or I can return it for a full refund! I enclose \$2.98 plus 52¢ postage for each "Crazy Crab" with live delivery GUARANTEED!

Send _____ "Crazy Crab(s)"
☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order

(Optional offers—check appropriate boxes below only if wanted)

- ☐ Rush Order, \$1.00 extra (offer not valid with personal check).
- ☐ Add _____ "Crazy Crab" Playshells to my order at 75¢ each!
- ☐ Giant "Crazy Crab", \$4.95.

Add Sales-Tax where Applicable

Total amount enclosed, \$ _____
(no C.O.D.'s please)

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

N.Y. State Residents (8%) _____

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THE GREAT **SUPERMAN** MOVIE CONTEST ★

TWO FIRST PRIZES

* A ROLE IN THE
UPCOMING
SUPERMAN MOVIE!

plus - AN EXPENSE-
PAID TRIP TO
VISIT THE OFFICES OF
DC COMICS!

5,000 SECOND PRIZES!

— CHOICE OF —

- SECRET ORIGIN OF DC SUPER-HEROES BOOK.
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- YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE AMAZING WORLD OF DC COMICS.
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OR

- TICKETS TO SUPERMAN MOVIE PREVIEWS!



**ENTER
TODAY!**
WATCH FOR
CONTEST
COUPONS
IN THIS MONTH'S
DC COMICS!

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE
RECEIVED BEFORE
JULY 15, 1977!**

HERE'S HOW TO ENTER - -

1. Simply collect the coupons found at the bottom of most DC Comics' letters pages dated AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 1977. Collect the appropriate coupons which, when collected in order, spell out "S-U-P-E-R-M-A-N" and either "K-A-L-E-L" or "C-L-A-R-K", staple or clip them together in order, place them in a legal-sized (4 1/8" x 9 1/2") envelope with your name, address, and telephone number, and mail it to "The Great Superman Movie Contest", DC Comics Inc., Post Office Box 116, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019.
 2. Enter as often as you like, but be sure each entry is complete with all the necessary letters and each entry is mailed individually.
 3. Only the entire coupon - containing the phrase "The Great Superman Movie Contest" and the specific letter - will be valid.
 4. All entries must be received by DC Comics before 5 PM, July 15, 1977. All entries will be placed in a drum and two first prize envelopes will be selected on July 18, 1977 on the set of the Superman movie. First prize winners will be notified by telegram. Second prize drawings will be held during the week of July 18, 1977; winners will be notified by mail.
 5. Employees of Warner Communications Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates, and DC Comics' free-lance artists, writers, colorists, and letterers, any of the participating wholesalers of Independent News Company, and the immediate families of those employees are specifically excluded from this contest.
 6. There are no age or racial restrictions; males and females are equally eligible to win. First prize winners must be available for work on the Superman Movie set during a specific date and time in late summer of 1977. During this period, the first prize winners and each winner's companion will be taken on a personal tour of DC Comics in New York. If the first prize winner is a minor, said winner's companion must be a parent or guardian of the winner.
- Second prize winners will receive a card in the mail offering the various prizes, from which they will indicate their preferences. These prizes will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; and all second prize winners will receive one of their noted preferences.
- Contest void where prohibited by law and subject to all applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

Super

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INTRODUCING

THE BODYBUILDING SYSTEM THAT GUARANTEES —
**YOU'LL PUT ON INCHES OF POWERFUL
MUSCLES ON YOUR BODY!**

At last, NEW bodybuilding secrets are now available for your use. Finally, after years of experimenting we have come up with the fastest muscle building system in the world. Our course really works — thousands have taken our course and have obtained fantastic results. Right in the privacy or your own bedroom, you can completely transform your body.

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You can have POWERFUL MUSCLES FAST . . . not by years and years of hard work . . . but by simply following our fascinating system . . . a system that works so fast you can see results from day to day! Isn't that the kind of course you want? We absolutely guarantee results.

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"Wow! I'm making fantastic gains, following your new method of muscle building. I never knew it could be so easy to build muscles."
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"I was a skinny weakling when I enrolled, now I've gained 30 pounds in just 46 days. I am truly amazed, I'm going to be dynamite on the beach."
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"In just 3 weeks I have gained 13" on my arms and 4" on my chest. I have also lost 4" off my waist. Your course is just great!"
D. Roberts

"I'm transforming all the fat off my body and changing it into rock hard muscle. It's amazing. I have lost 8" off my waist. I can actually see my muscles growing from day to day."
P. Williams

"I have gained 20 pounds in just 30 days and I have gained over 6 inches on my chest. I find that my power has doubled. In sports I am a winner in everything I do."
B. Daniels

"I have gained 5" on my arms and 12" on my chest, while losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!"
M. Robinson

Free
BOOKLET



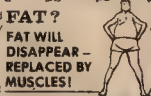
MORRIE MITCHELL GAINED 65 POUNDS OF MUSCLE WHILE FOLLOWING OUR 'REVOLUTIONARY NEW METHODS' ON BODYBUILDING.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE! You Can Do This...

★ DOUBLE OR TRIPLE YOUR STRENGTH in record time! It wouldn't take long before you can perform feats of strength.



SKINNY?
MUSCLES WILL
APPEAR
ALMOST LIKE
MAGIC!



FAT?
FAT WILL
DISAPPEAR —
REPLACED BY
MUSCLES!

**YOUR NEW
MUSCLES WILL
FEEL LIKE
DYNAMITE!**

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Shoot the 'works' to me free! Rush me all that free muscle-building information, so that I can add inches of powerful muscles — all in the privacy of my home. I am sending 26¢ to help cover postage and handling costs. I am under no obligation. (Please print)



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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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THE THRILLING RETURN OF

MISTER

MIRACLE

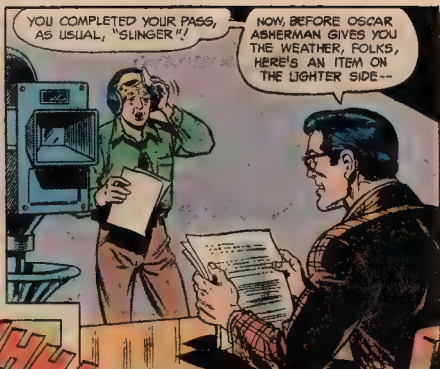


by STEVE
ENGLEHART
and
MARSHALL
ROGERS

ON SALE JUNE 23RD



-- SO I'M THROWING
THE BALL BACK TO
YOU, CLARK!



YOU COMPLETED YOUR PASS,
AS USUAL, "SLINGER!"

NOW, BEFORE OSCAR
ASHERMAN GIVES YOU
THE WEATHER, FOLKS,
HERE'S AN ITEM ON
THE LIGHTER SIDE--



CRASSSHHHH!

IT
CONCERNS
A--

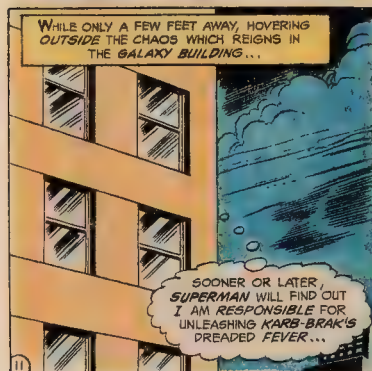
GREAT
SCOTT!



ARGHHH!
I TOLD YOU I'D
MAKE YOU PAY
FOR THIS!

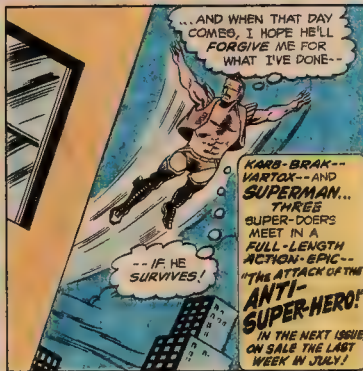
KARB-BRAK MUST'VE
FOLLOWED ME BACK HERE--

--AND NOW HE'S ATTACKING
ME IN FRONT OF A MILLION
VIEWERS!



WHILE ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY, HOVERING
OUTSIDE THE CHAOS WHICH REIGNS IN
THE GALAXY BUILDING...

SOONER OR LATER,
SUPERMAN WILL FIND OUT
I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR
UNLEASHING KARB-BRAK'S
DREADED FEVER...



...AND WHEN THAT DAY
COMES, I HOPE HE'LL
FORGIVE ME FOR
WHAT I'VE DONE--

-- IF HE
SURVIVES!

KARB-BRAK--
VARTOX--AND
SUPERMAN...
THREE
SUPER-DOERS
MEET IN A
FULL-LENGTH
ACTION-EPIC--
"THE ATTACK OF THE
ANTI-SUPER-HERO!"
IN THE NEXT ISSUE,
ON SALE THE LAST
WEEK IN JULY!

SWAMP THING

FROM THE BEGINNING

The magic began six years ago in the *House of Secrets* #92. Editor Joe Orlando needed an eight-page story —fast. He called in one of his favorite writers, Len Wein, and a young artist whose work he equally admired, Berni Wrightson. Together they spawned a tale so memorably poignant that it exploded the mystery anthology format and gave birth to a single character series with a monster as the hero.

Of course the monster was *Swamp Thing*, once a scientist whose mangled body was dumped by his would-be killer into the black slime of a mire. When Dr. Alex Olsen* finally emerged from the nurturing swamp, the only remnants of his ravaged manhood were a mass of razor-edge feelings and anguished thoughts. Despite their urgency, they were muffled by Dr. Olsen's hideous new form. More plant than human, his body had become a lumbering monstrosity, fashioned from stagnant filth.

The concept of this sympathetic bog creature of course was Len's. But it was Berni who managed to bring off a visual characterization that could credibly repel the players in the story at the same time that it stirred a wrenching empathy in *Swamp Thing* readers. And, according to Len, it was Joe Orlando who gave the story its devastating final twist.

Berni remembers completing the pages over a weekend with the help of Mike Kaluta (who also modeled for the original villain) and Jeff Jones, who inked two of the pages. *House of Secrets* #92 finally went to press. Within a week after it hit the stands, the mail poured in.

"*House of Secrets* outsold everything that month," says Len. "I got countless letters from people who said they read the story and cried."

Naturally, there was pressure to bring *Swamp Thing* back. Almost a

year later, Len and Berni agreed to reconceive their monster for an ongoing book.

Once again, the creative team assembled, and this time they worked with the zeal and fecundity of visionaries with a long-term mission. All three of the men identified with the theme of the misunderstood monster. Len had always had an affinity for melancholy, melodrama, and tragic misfits. Berni, an avid fan of the E.C. Comics horror line, used to cry in Frankenstein movies. And Joe, too, was deeply influenced by E.C., especially by Otto Binder's *I, Robot* whose emotional paradoxes he himself had probed as an E.C. artist.

"Now that we had the chance," says Berni, "we decided to do something that was a tremendous amount of fun and incredibly commercial. We agreed that we'd take *Swamp Thing* to outlandish places all over the world and somehow include at least one classic monster figure in every book we did."

"Absolutely everything in the book was planned," says Len. "The '*Swamp Thing*'s thought balloons were always yellow. Because it was such an extraordinary effort for him to speak, on the rare occasions when he did, the balloons were orange. Whenever a caption referred to him, it was drippy, like the swamp."

The care lavished on both the larger concept and the smaller details was recognized not just by readers but by the comic industry. In 1972, it showered *Swamp Thing*'s creators with Shazam Awards for the year's most outstanding contributions to the comic field.

Five years later, looking back on all his work in comics, Len says: "Pride-wise, nothing beats it for me. *Swamp Thing* stands out as a piece of art."

There is no fan who would not agree. Today, the first issue of *Swamp Thing* sells for \$6.00, the second for \$3.50 and the complete set of ten by Berni and Len is a true collector's treasure at around \$27.00 if you could find it.

For those who can't afford such prices, it gives us pleasure to make

the first two issues available in a 60 cent package. This time, there are absolutely no ads to interrupt the story's flow, and Berni has drawn a dramatic wrap-around cover solely for this occasion.

The book will be on sale this June under the title *The Original Swamp Thing Saga*. Look for it. Len is right. It's far more than good comic books. It is indeed a piece of art.

It has been a couple of months since I've last mentioned our Dollar Comics. Well, since you're going to be haunting the newsstands for the *Swamp Thing* special you might as well keep your eyes open for our first Dollar Comic annual.

You see, the reports on our first Dollar Comics have been so resoundingly positive from readers and retailers, we've decided after seven months to do what we've been itching to—put out another Dollar Comic.

June launches issue #1 of DC's *Five Star Super-Hero Spectacular*. It's the first of a series of variously-priced annuals, and, as the title suggests, it will showcase five major superstars. The Batman, Flash, Green Lantern, Aquaman, and The Atom, each in his own major story.

Five Star's artists and writers are among DC's finest: Cary Bates, Gerry Conway, Paul Kupperberg, Denny O'Neil, Marty Pasko, Jack Abel, Dick Dillin, Frank McLaughlin, Bob McLeod, Mike Nasser, Irv Novick, Joe Rubinstein, Joe Staton, and Steve Stiles. With Paul Levitz as editor, they've produced some of the most exciting and entertaining stories of the past 12 months. A Neal Adams cover tops off the book.

By the way, you might remember that in *Kobra* #7, several moons ago, we promised that the serpentine mastermind would take on The Batman. He does, not in the yet-to-be-published *Kobra* #8, but right here in *Five Star*'s opening 17-page thriller.

Five Star Super-Hero Spectacular hits the stands around June 16th. You'll love it.

With all the best—

JENETTE

* The short story differed in a number of details from the revised origin story a year later. Dr. Alex Olsen, for instance, became Dr. Alec Holland.

DISCOUNT MAGIC AND JOKES



HAND BUZZER

This vibrating surprise machine fits in the palm of your hand, guaranteed to give off a most electrifying shock. Just shake hands and watch the action that follows.

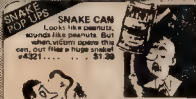
#4338



NICKELS-TO-DIMES

This device changes four Nickels into four Dimes, before your eyes. Easy to do, all that's needed is a nickel.

#5254



Snake
Pop Lips

Snake Can
Looks like a can of
snacks, but it's a
snake. When you open it,
out flies a huge snake!

#4321

#738

ALSO AVAILABLE
REALISTIC
SNAKE LIGHTER
#4753

754



SHOCK BOOK

Appears to be a regular book, but when your victim opens it he is in for the shock of his life. Batteries not included.

#4371



MAGIC CUPS & BALLS

Handy magic trick. Balls seem to go through solid cups. Great effect and easy to do.

#6712

#138



DOLLAR BILL SNATCHER

This little gadget fits in the palm of your hand and automatically snatches dollar bills away from your victims.

#4124

#128



BLACK SOAP

This bar of soap looks real, but just place it on a dish and watch the fun begin!

#4501

#138



DISAPPEARING INK

Just squirt this shiny ink on and watch the fun begin! When it dries, it vanishes! Giant size bottle.

#4815

#138



SWITCH BLADE ACTION COMB

When closed it looks like a switch blade, but just flick your wrist and instead of a knife, out flies a comb. Really scary.

#4133

#138



MAGIC COLOR VISION

This magical cube lets you read people's minds. Easy magic.

#5319

#138



WHOOPEE CUSHION

When the victim sits down on this cushion, a loud whoopee ring around a friend. Every body's favorite!

#4463

#138



MARKED CARDS

Put suit in magic. Trade to Top friends, or win big in card game! High quality.

#5843

#138



BALD HEAD WIG

Wig is beautiful. One minute you have hair, and the next you're bald! Friends and relatives will get a great kick out of this joke.

#4581

#138

More Great Gags & Tricks

Salt Water Taffy

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#138

Trick 7 & 11 Dice

#4821

#138

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#138

2/91-10



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Looks like a real gun. But when you pull the trigger, out pops a flag instead. Sure to amuse!

#4677

#138



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One of the best magic tricks ever. Strings and Tassels magically tie 12 sticks! Everybody's favorite!

#6812

#138

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2		
3		
4		
5		
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7		
8		
9		
10		

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Total Enclosed _____
Sorry minimum order \$1.00
Free Catalog with each Order!
Canadian residents add additional 25¢
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REACHING NEW
HEIGHTS OF
INTERGALACTIC
EXCITEMENT!

STAR HUNTERS

BY DAVID MICHELINIE, DON NEWTON & BOB LAYTON

SPECIAL DOUBLE-LENGTH
ORIGIN IN DC SUPER-STARS #16
ON SALE JUNE 30TH

FANTASTIC FIRST ISSUE
ON SALE JULY 26TH



PUT A SUPERFRIEND ON YOUR CHEST!



SHAZAM



IS YOUR LIFE DRAKE
DOES YOUR DAY-TO-
DAY EXISTENCE
LACK ZAP-FOW-

-OR KAZDOWIEZ A
SIMPLE WAY TO REMEDY
THIS IS TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE

OFFER EXPLAINED TO
YOU IN THE FUNNY BOX
WITH THE DOTTED
LINES AT THE BOTTOM
OF THIS PAGE!

BEACH
TOWELS

GIANT 32"x60"
100% COTTON

SUPERMAN



Wonder Woman



SEND TO:

EACH
\$4¹⁹
PLUS
60¢ P&H



EACH ONLY \$3⁴⁹
+ 50¢ P&H

* WONDER
WOMAN
ALSO AVAILABLE
IN ADULT, S/M, M/M,
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ONLY.

ALL SHIRTS ARE 50/50
BLEND OF COTTON & I
POLYESTER & I ARE
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SPECIAL

INCLUDED WITH EACH SHIRT IS A
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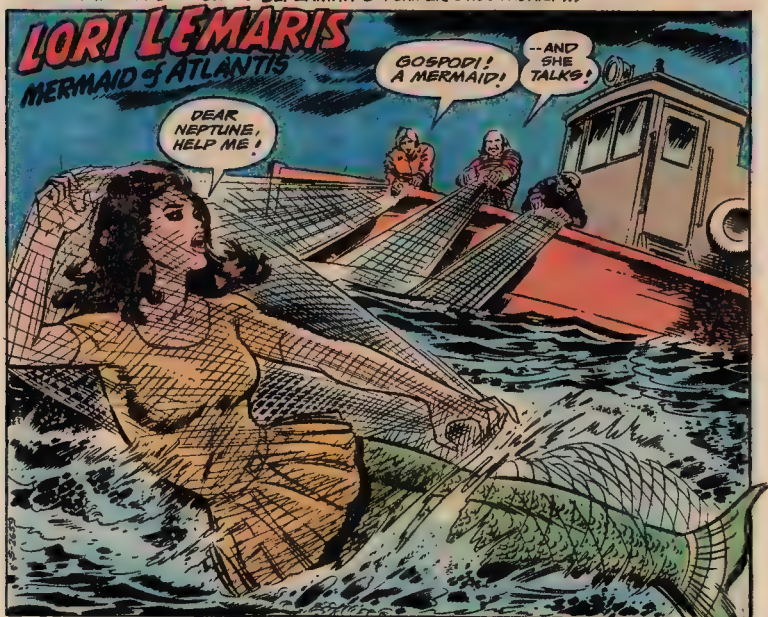
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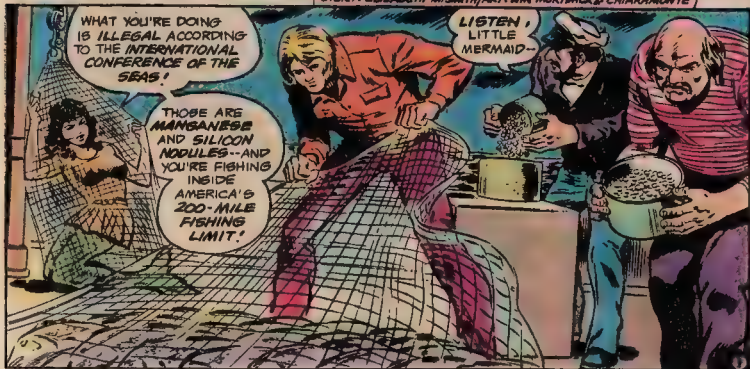
WHEN THE CONTINENT OF ATLANTIS SANK THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, SOME CITIES SURVIVED UNDER WATER-TIGHT DOMES. THEIR PEOPLE ADAPTED TO THE UNDERSEA LIFE--AND THE INHABITANTS OF TRITON'S SMASHED THEIR DOME AFTER FINDING A WAY TO GROW FISH-TAILS. FROM THIS RACE OF MER-PEOPLE COMES SUPERMAN'S FORMER SWEETHEART...

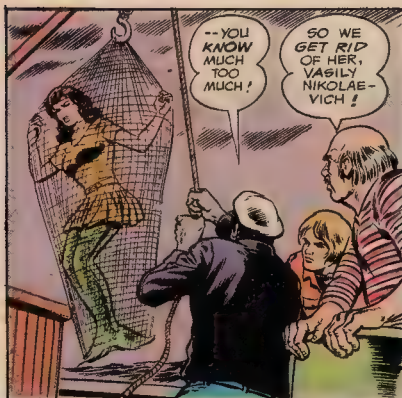


WHAT'S MORE, SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT THESE "FISHERMEN" ARE NOT WHAT THEY PRETEND TO BE--WHICH MAKES LORI LEMARIS DETERMINED TO STOP THE SNEAKY SEAMEN BY EXPOSING--

The **WEAK LINK!**

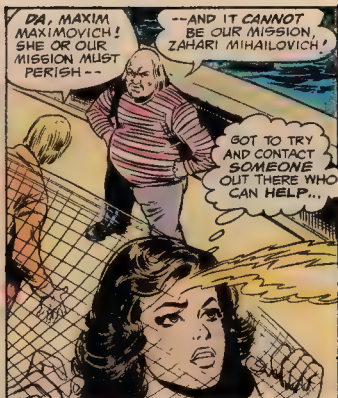
STORY: ELIZABETH M. SMITH/ART: WIN MORTIMER & CHIARAMONTE





--YOU
KNOW
MUCH
TOO
MUCH!

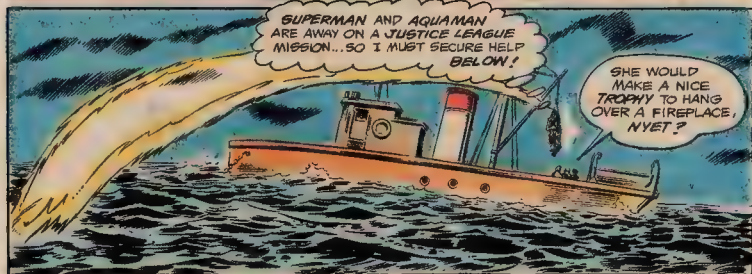
SO WE
GET RID
OF HER,
VASILY
NIKOLAE-
VICH!



DA, MAXIM
MAXIMOVICH!
SHE OR OUR
MISSION MUST
PERISH--

--AND IT CANNOT
BE OUR MISSION,
ZAHARI MIHAIOLOVICH!

GOT TO TRY
AND CONTACT
SOMEONE
OUT THERE WHO
CAN HELP...



SUPERMAN AND AQUAMAN
ARE AWAY ON A JUSTICE LEAGUE
MISSION...SO I MUST SECURE HELP
BELOW!

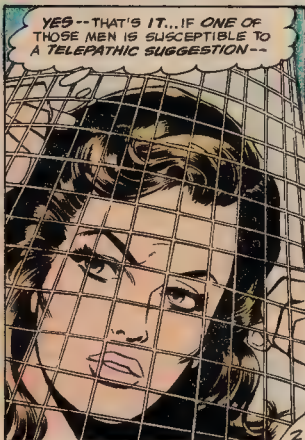
SHE WOULD
MAKE A NICE
TROPHY TO HANG
OVER A FIREPLACE,
NYET?



WHAT DO YOU
THINK, MAXIM--
WOULD EATING
OUR CATCH BE
INHUMAN?

IT DEPENDS
ON WHETHER
SHE IS FISH
OR HUMAN!
SUCH AN
UNEXPECTED
INCIDENT REVEALS
A WEAK LINK
IN HOMELAND
THINKING!

A WEAK
LINK...IN
THINKING!



YES--THAT'S IT...IF ONE OF
THOSE MEN IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO
A TELEPATHIC SUGGESTION--



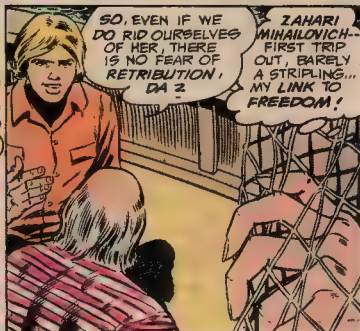
PROBING EACH FISHERMAN'S MIND TELEPATHICALLY, LORI SEARCHES FOR A WEAK LINK, THE SLIGHTEST ABERRATION.

MAXIM MAXIMOVICH-- AN OLD, SEASONED HAND, THOROUGHLY CONFIDENT-- DEEPLY DEVOTED TO HIS COUNTRY AND ITS LEADERS!



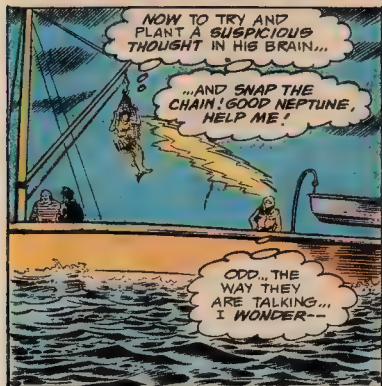
FORTUNATELY, ONLY POSEIDONIS, THE CITY OF AQUAMAN, IS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, WHILE TRITONIS, THE ATLANTIS OF THE MER-PEOPLE, IS NOT!

COLD, CRUEL VASILY NIKO-- LAEVICH-- NO WEAKNESS TO BE USED THERE!



SO, EVEN IF WE DO RID OURSELVES OF HER, THERE IS NO FEAR OF RETRIBUTION, DA?

ZAHARI MIHAILOVICH-- FIRST TRIP OUT, BARELY A STRIPLING... MY LINK TO FREEDOM!



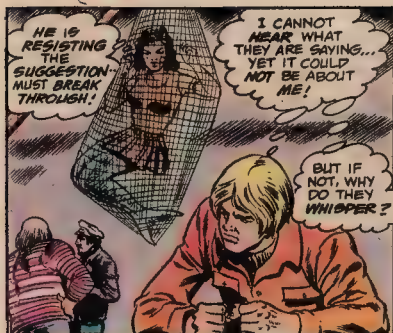
NOW TO TRY AND PLANT A SUSPICIOUS THOUGHT IN HIS BRAIN...

...AND SNAP THE CHAIN! GOOD NEPTUNE, HELP ME!

ODD... THE WAY THEY ARE TALKING... I WONDER--



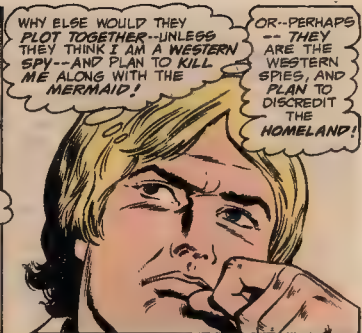
--COULD IT BE THAT MY COMRADES WOULD... NO!!



HE IS RESISTING THE SUGGESTION--MUST BREAK THROUGH!

I CANNOT HEAR WHAT THEY ARE SAYING... YET IT COULD NOT BE ABOUT ME!

BUT IF NOT, WHY DO THEY WHISPER?



WHY ELSE WOULD THEY PLOT TOGETHER--UNLESS THEY THINK I AM A WESTERN SPY--AND PLAN TO KILL ME ALONG WITH THE MERMAID!

OR--PERHAPS -- THEY ARE THE WESTERN SPIES, AND PLAN TO DISCREDIT THE HOMELAND!



SO! YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD DUPE ME, YOU--YOU CAPITALIST SWINE!

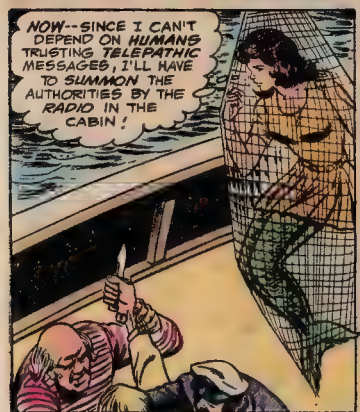
YOU ARE MAD, COMRADE!

LET'S JUMP HIM!



PLANNING TO DO ME IN, HEY? THIS MERMAID MUST BE YOUR CONTACT WITH THE WEST!

WATCH HIS KNIFE--!



NOW--SINCE I CAN'T DEPEND ON HUMANS TRUSTING TELEPATHIC MESSAGES, I'LL HAVE TO SUMMON THE AUTHORITIES BY THE RADIO IN THE CABIN!



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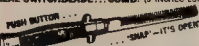
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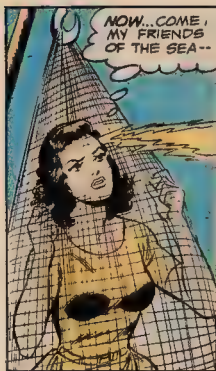
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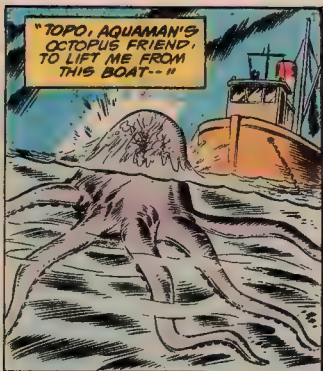
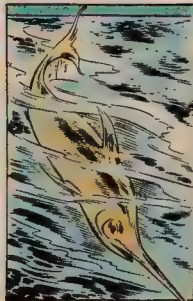
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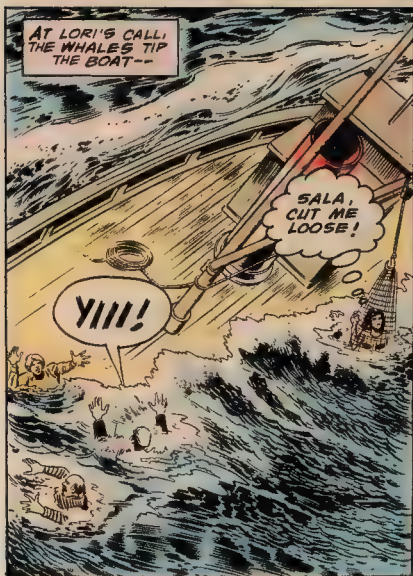
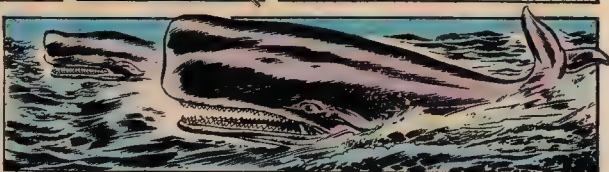
NOW...COME,
MY FRIENDS
OF THE SEA--

"SALA, OF THE FAMILY
OF SWORDFISH TO
FREE ME FROM THIS
NET--"



"TOPO, AQUAMAN'S
OCTOPUS FRIEND,
TO LIFT ME FROM
THIS BOAT--"

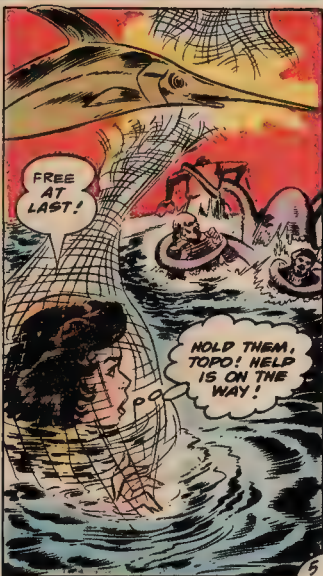
"--AND DERIAL
AND BUTEL, OF
THE SPERM
WHALES, TO
ATTACK
THE VESSEL
AND KEEP THE
'FISHERMEN'
OFF-BALANCE--"



AT LORI'S CALL,
THE WHALES TIP
THE BOAT--

SALA,
CUT ME
LOOSE!

YIII!



FREE
AT
LAST!

HOLD THEM,
TOPO! HELP
IS ON THE
WAY!

SHORTLY, THE
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY FORCE
ARRIVES...

YOU'LL FIND THE
INCRIMINATING NODULES
AND FISH UNDER THE
PLASTIC, OFFICER--

--ENOUGH EVIDENCE
TO TALK TO THEIR
SUPERIORS ABOUT!

THANK YOU FOR
RADIOING US WHEN
YOU CAUGHT
THEM AT THEIR
ACTIVITY, MISS!

IT WAS
THE OTHER
WAY AROUND,
SIR-- THEY
CAUGHT
ME!

THEY
THOUGHT
I WAS
A FISH,
YOU
SEE...

ER-- YES,
OF COURSE!
WE DON'T SEE
YOUR BOAT--
SO WE'LL
TAKE YOU
BACK TO THE
MAINLAND--

OH, THAT'S
NOT
NECESSARY,
OFFICER--

--I CAN GET
ANYWHERE
MORE EFFICIENTLY
WITH MY FINS--

--AS YOU CAN
SEE! I'M GOING
HOME...

"...WHERE LIFE
ISN'T AS HECTIC
AS IT IS ON
LAND!"

HOLY
MACKEREL--!

PLOP!

The
End



Dear Julie and Nelson:

The Phantom Zone! Wow! How long has it been since that region of ne'er-do-wells has been used in a Superman story? "One of Our Phantoms is Missing," in Action 471, brought back memories of many years ago, when I first started reading Superman and Action, and the Man of Steel was plagued by dastardly villains from the nebulous Zone. Things haven't changed. Our thus far nameless nemesis looks to be an interesting and refreshing foe for Superman. Cary Bates combined this favorite device of days past with trademarks of the modern era: hot-headed Morgan Edge (how could you leave out the cigarette holder and table-pounding?), meek Clark Kent, references to Clark's former neighbor, and human-interest touches (Jackson Porter as a lonely innocent being used by a villainess), to put together a promising first part of the story.

The Private Life of Clark Kent is a back-up feature which has great potential, as has been shown on past occasions, and in this issue's "The Long Weekend" Kai-Ei of Krypton is at least humanoid, if not entirely Earth-standard human, and tales like this one show us more of the guy who has something in common with the rest of us. Bill Kunkel turned out an excellent story, starting out with Clark's boredom at the prospect of three days alone, then the surprising chance meeting, and learning the existence of his double. We also saw Clark's resourcefulness, a message subtly interposed, and finally a reliable Steve Lombard-Morgan Edge tag ending. The art was very good, as well—Calnan and Blaisdell are fine artists in their own right, besides resembling Swan and Anderson's work.

Here's one for the trivia expert: what ever happened to Lana Lang? (Not that I particularly want to see her; I'm just curious.)

Beth Montelone
13 Rowley St., Apt. 3
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

(You may not particularly want to see her, but you sure will—any issue now!—E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

Well, Cary Bates has done it again! He has turned out a top-notch introductory chapter to a multi-part series. I have come to expect a solid, well-paced and exciting story every time Cary starts a new saga, as he has done with "One of Our Phantoms is Missing!" I only hope next issue comes close to maintaining the excellence of this one, because Cary is notorious for his "second-issue slumps." But that's next month! My job is to discuss this month's issue, and a pleasure it is to do so.

The lead story and Bill Kunkel's PLoCK story, "The Long Weekend," were notable for their handling of Clark Kent. Kent is shown, not as a timid wimp afraid of his shadow, but just an average chump who gets chewed out regularly by his boss. An awful lot more

people can identify with a schielmiel than with a sissy, and this is why Clark Kent is a lot more human than he was 39 years ago. Also, Kent isn't as boring as he was during the early years.

Of course, it always helps if there is a plot surrounding the characterization. Fortunately, both Bates and Kunkel came across with good story-lines. Cary's was better, due to the fact that he had more space in which to work, and also because he is more familiar with the Man of Steel. "Phantom," while gimmick-laden with the old elements I nevertheless happen to love intensely, showed the story characteristics that have made Julius Schwartz a giant among editors. Now, not only do the Phantom Zone villains escape (again!) to Earth, but we learn their personalities and the way they interact with Terrans. Also, there is the standard Kent-Superman switch that manages to crop up just in time to breathe a little action into the story. I personally favor characterization over action, but comics aren't exactly novels, so a little roughhousing is not only welcome, but necessary, at least for an extended story. Bates has done this now.

The PLoCK story, though not terribly original, was a refreshing look into the after-hours life of Kent. The Lon Maxwell coincidence was a bit much, but it was presented in a plausible way.

One last point: I liked the Lopez-Oksner cover, as I did the whole issue. You guys did a good job this time. Keep it up. Thanks.

Dave Blanchard
2709 Woodside Dr.
Rockford, Ill. 61109

Dear Editor:

You're improving, gentlemen. After a slump of two or three years, Superman and Action Comics are leaping to new heights, in single bounds, yet:

"One of Our Phantoms is Missing" was tightly plotted and even incorporated the return of the Phantom Zone criminals. While the concept of a PZ criminal posing as a bona fide ghost isn't new, it is reassuring to know you haven't forgotten our insubstantial friends.

I'll skip over the Private Life of Clark Kent story (why can't Bill Kunkel learn you shouldn't try to tell the plot of War and Peace in 80 seconds?) and get right to the letter column and the real reason I wrote.

What ever happened to the biting critical commentary you used to print five years ago? Or the in-depth explanations of how Superman's strength is transmitted to his left pinky under extenuating circumstances, which were so popular a decade in the past? Isn't there a reader out there who doesn't allow his pet typewriter privileges? If this disgusting trend toward canine comedy doesn't change, I shall be forced to solicit a letter from my cat, Mr. Tawny, demanding the return of Streaky and his Earth-S namesake, Tawky Tawny.

Tom Mitchell
55 W. Washington, Space A-10
Yakima, Wash. 98903

(Your cat is too late! His namesake returns in Shazam #32—playing for the Detroit Tigers!—E. Nelson Bridwell)

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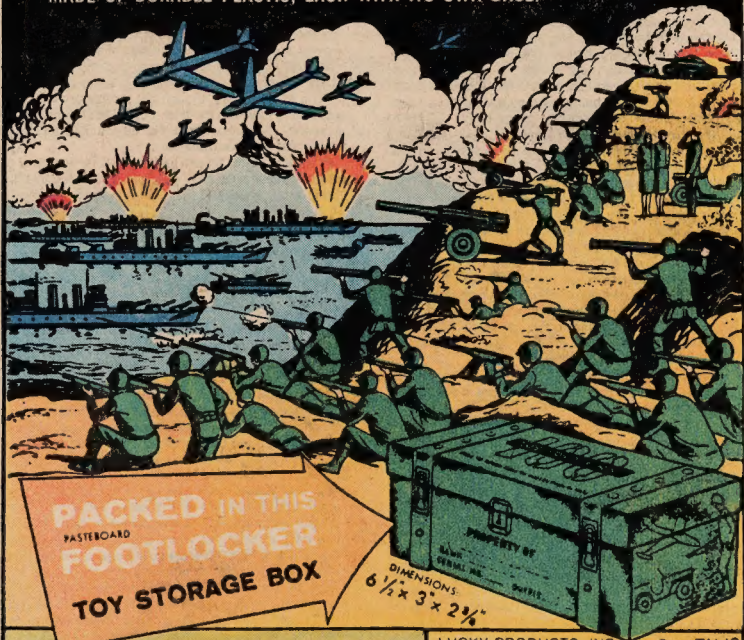
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